

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6-22 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 and 23-35 are canceled. Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the foregoing discussion is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Pilc et al.; rejects claims 23, 26, 27, 29, 32, 33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hanson; rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Pilc et al. in view of D'Amico; rejects claims 23-25, 28, 29-31 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Baulier et al. in view of Koster; and allows claims 6-22.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Note that claims 1-5 and 23-35 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections noted in the Office Action are moot.

Serial No. 09/750,909
Reply to Final Office Action of March 4, 2004

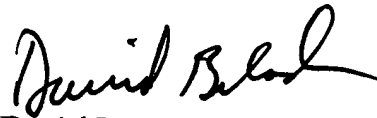
Docket No. P-0163

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: June 2, 2004

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